

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method of mounting a printing plate on a cylinder, the method comprising the steps
2 of:
 - 3 a. establishing a temperature difference between the plate and the cylinder, a
4 temperature of the plate exceeding a temperature of the cylinder; and
 - 5 b. wrapping the plate around the cylinder, the temperature difference causing the
6 plate to shrink against the cylinder.
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- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the temperature difference is at least 3 °C.
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- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the temperature difference is established by heating
2 the plate.
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- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the plate is heated uniformly.
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- 1 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the temperature difference is established by cooling
2 the cylinder.
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- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the plate is drawn from a roll disposed within the
2 interior of the cylinder and advanced around an exterior surface of the cylinder.

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1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the roll is heated.

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1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the exterior surface of the cylinder is cooled.

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1 9. Apparatus for mounting a printing plate on a cylinder, the apparatus comprising:

2 a. means for establishing a temperature difference between the plate and the
3 cylinder such that a temperature of the plate exceeds a temperature of the
4 cylinder; and

5 b. means facilitating wrapping the plate around the cylinder, the temperature
6 difference causing the plate to shrink against the cylinder.

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1 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the facilitating means comprises registration pins
2 and clamps.

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1 11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the plate is drawn from a roll disposed within the
2 interior of the cylinder and advanced around an exterior surface of the cylinder, the
3 facilitating means comprising:

4 a. means, within the interior of the cylinder, for supporting the roll of plate
5 material; and

6 b. means, within the interior of the cylinder, for receiving plate material extending
7 over a travel path from the roll of plate material over the exterior surface of the
8 cylinder.

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1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the means for establishing a temperature
2 difference comprises means for heating the roll.

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1 13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the means for establishing a temperature
2 difference comprises means for cooling at least the exterior surface of the cylinder.

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1 14. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the temperature difference is at least 3 °C.

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1 15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the means for establishing the temperature
2 difference comprises means for heating the plate.

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1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the heating means comprises a heated surface
2 conforming substantially to the plate.

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1 17. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the means for establishing the temperature
2 difference comprises means for cooling the cylinder.

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